

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 161856Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4854

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

EUCOM

CINCUSNAVEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, XF, UK, IS

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO CONTROVERSY ON UK MIDDLE
EAST ARMS EMBARGO

REF: (A) LONDON 11836; (B) LONDON 11989; (C) LONDON 12003

1. OCTOBER 16 NEWS MEDIA REPORTS THAT CONTROVERSY IS
DEVELOPING OVER UK ARMS EMBARGO TO MIDDLE EAST. MANY
MP'S ARE REPORTED TO CONSIDER THAT EMBARGO IS UNFAIR
TO ISRAEL.

2. EMBARGO BECAME OBJECT OF CONTROVERSY FOLLOWING REPORT
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THAT UK HAD ALLOWED SHIPMENTS OF SCORPION ARMORED CARS TO

DUBAI AND TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN HELICOPTER PILOTS (REF B)
TO PROCEED AFTER BEGINNING OF WAR BUT HAD STOPPED SHIP-
MENTS OF EQUIPMENT OF ISRAEL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
IN HOUSE OF LORDS ON OCTOBER 15, LADY TWEEDSMUIR, FCO
MINISTER OF STATE, SAID "WE HAVE STOPPED SENDING ARMS TO
THE BATTLEFIELDON THE QUESTION OF SCORPION TANKS
(SIC) FOR DUBAI, THIS IS NOT A BATTLEFIELD COUNTRY ...
THE EGYPTIAN PILOTS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE 12 TRAINED PILOTS
ON A CONVERSION COURSE. WE FEEL THIS SHOULD CONTINUE."

3. IN OPENING SESSION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS OCTOBER 16,
SIR ALEC DOUBLAD-HOME MADE SHORT STATEMENT DEFENDING THE
ARMS EMBARGO. HE NOTED THAT UK HAD COME OUT FOR A CEASE-
FIRE AND SAID "WE CAN'T DO THIS WITH ON HAND AND SUPPLY
ARMS WITH THE OTHER". HE SAID HE HOPES INGREDIENTS OF
A CEASE-FIRE INCLUDE DEMILITARIZED NONES AND A UN POLICE
FORCE. LABOR SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER JAMES CALLAGHAN
TOOK POSITION THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT UK ARMS EMBARGO
"IS EVENHANDED" AND SUGGESTED EMBARGO UNFAIR TO ISRAEL.
LIBERAL PARTY LEADER JEREMY THORPE TOOK A STRONG PRO-
ISRAEL POSITION IN THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

4. EDITORIAL OPINION IN LONDON PAPERS IS MIXED ON THIS
ISSUE WITH "GUARDIAN" SUGGESTING IT WOULD BE HYPOCRITICAL
OF UK TO FURNISH ARMS WHILE CALLING FOR PEACEFUL SETTLE-
MENT WHILE "TELEGRAPH" CRITICIZES HMG FOR NOT SENDING
REPLACEMENT PARTS AND SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL.

5. WIRE SERVICES REPORT AFTERNOON OF 16TH THAT
OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY LEADER HAROLD WILSON CAME OUT
AGAINST ARMS EMBARGO IN TV INTERVIEW TODAY. WILSON SAID
HE WAS OPPOSED TO THIS EMBARGO BECAUSE IT OPERATED
AGAINST ISRAEL.

6. DEPARTMENT PASS MIDDLE EAST POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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